AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions or listings of claims for this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-20 (Canceled).

1 ~~21.~~ (Previously presented) A method for analyzing a plurality of amino acids in a fluid sample comprising the steps of:

introducing said sample into a buffer solution;

passing said sample in said buffer solution through a separation column; and

setting a lithium ion concentration in said buffer to no more than 0.3 mols/L until approximately a time when β -aminoisobutyric acid (β -AiBA) is eluted.

2 ~~22.~~ (Original) The method of claim ~~21~~ 1 further comprising setting a pH to no more than 3.5 for said buffer solution up to a time before said β -aminoisobutyric acid (β -AiBA) is eluted.

3 ~~23.~~ (Original) The method of claim ~~21~~ 1 further comprising setting said lithium ion concentration and a pH in said buffer solution to increase in a gradient fashion within a time of eluting from γ-amino-n-butyric acid (γ-ABA) to hydroxylysine (Hylys).

5 24. (Previously presented) A method for analyzing a plurality of amino acids in a fluid sample comprising the steps of:

introducing said sample into a buffer solution;

passing said sample in said buffer solution through a separation column;

setting a lithium ion concentration in said buffer to no more than 0.3 mols/L up to a time before β -aminoisobutyric acid (β -AiBA) is eluted;

setting said lithium ion concentration and a pH in said buffer solution to increase in a gradient fashion within a time of eluting from γ-amino-n-butyric acid (γ-ABA) to hydroxylysine (Hylys); and

setting said lithium ion concentration to increase from 0.44 mols/L to 1.00 mol/L and said pH to increase from 3.66 to 4.1 in said buffer solution.

6 25. (Previously presented) A method for analyzing a plurality of amino acids in a fluid sample comprising the steps of:

introducing said sample into a buffer solution;

passing said sample in said buffer solution through a separation column;

setting a lithium ion concentration in said buffer to no more than 0.3 mols/L up to a

time before β-aminoisobutyric acid (β-AiBA) is eluted; and

setting said lithium ion concentration at 0.81 mols/L and a pH at 4.00 in said buffer solution within an elution time from hydroxylysine (Hylys) to histidine (His).

7 26. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising setting the lithium ion concentration at 1.00 mol/L and said pH at 4.1 in said buffer solution after the elution of histidine (His).

8 27. (Previously presented) A method for analyzing a plurality of amino acids in a fluid sample comprising the steps of:

introducing said sample into a buffer solution;

passing said sample in said buffer solution through a separation column;

setting a lithium ion concentration in said buffer to no more than 0.3 mols/L up to a time before β-aminoisobutyric acid (β-AiBA) is eluted; and

setting a column temperature at 70°C within an elution time from valine (val) to homocitrulline (Hcit).

9 28. (Previously presented) A method for analyzing a plurality of amino acids in a fluid sample comprising the steps of:

introducing said sample into a buffer solution;

passing said sample in said buffer solution through a separation column;

setting a lithium ion concentration in said buffer to no more than 0.3 mols/L up to a time before β -aminoisobutyric acid (β -AiBA) is eluted; and

setting a column temperature at 70°C within an elution time of tyrosine (Tyr).

10 29. (Previously presented) A method for analyzing a plurality of amino acids in a fluid sample comprising the steps of:

introducing said sample into a buffer solution;

passing said sample in said buffer solution through a separation column;

setting a lithium ion concentration in said buffer to no more than 0.3 mols/L up to a time before β -aminoisobutyric acid (β -AiBA) is eluted; and

setting a column temperature at 63°C within an elution time of from cysteine-homocysteine mixed disulfides (Cys-Hcys) to tryptophane (Trp).

4 30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 1 wherein said plurality of amino acids is selected from the group comprising: phosphoserine (P-Ser), taurine (Tau), phosphoethanolamine (PEA), urea (Urea), asparginic acid (Asp), hydroxyproline (Hypro), methionine sulfoxide (MetSOX), threonine (Thr), Serine (Ser), asparagine

(AspNH2), glutamic acid (Glu), glutamine (GluNH2), Sarcosine (Sar), α-aminoadipic acid (α-AAA), proline (Pro), glycine (Gly), analanine (Ala), citrulline (Cit), α-amino-n-butyric acid (α-ABA), valine (Val), pipecolic acid (Pipeco), homocysteine (HCysH), methionine (Met), homocytrulline (HCit), allo-isoleucine (Allo-Ile), cystine (Cys), saccharopin (Saccha), isoleucine (Ile), leucine (Leu), tyrosine (Tyr), cystathionine (Cysthi), phenylalanine (Phe), allgininosuccinic acid (ASA), cysteine-homocysteine mixed disulfides (Cys-Hcys), β -alanine (β -Ala), aminolevulinic acid (ALevA), β -aminoisobutyric acid (β -AiBA), γ-amino-n-butyric acid (γ-ABA), homocystine (HCys), alugininosuccinic acid anhydride 1 (ASA-Anhy1), ethanolamine (EOHNH2), tryptophan (Trp), ammonia (NH3), hydroxylysine (Hylys), aminoethylcysteine (AEC), ornithine (Orn), lysine (Lys), 1-methylhistidine (1Mehis), histidine (His), 3-methylhistidine (3Mehis), anserine (Ans), carnosine (Car) and arginine (Arg).

Claims 31-32 (Canceled).

11/33. (Previously presented) A method for analyzing a plurality of amino acids in a fluid sample comprising the steps of:

introducing said sample into a buffer solution;

passing said sample in said buffer solution through a separation column;

setting a pH to no more than 3.5 for said buffer solution up to a time before said β -aminoisobutyric acid (β -AiBA) is eluted; and

setting a lithium ion concentration in said buffer to no more than 0.3 mols/L until approximately a time when β -aminoisobutyric acid (β -AiBA) is eluted.